

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that this amendment, correcting certain claim dependencies be entered by the Examiner. Entry of this amendment will place the application in better form for appeal.

CONCLUSION

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: December 23, 2002

By: 

Lori-Ann Johnson
Reg. No. 34,498

Post Office Address (to
which correspondence is
to be sent)

Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow,
Garrett & Dunner, L.L.P.
1300 I Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 408-4000

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

APPENDIX TO AMENDMENT FILED DECEMBER 23, 2002

16. A process according to claim [1] 15, wherein the molar quantity of sulphuric acid relative to the 2-hydroxy-4-methylthiobutyronitrile is between 0.7 and 0.85.
17. A process according to claim [1] 15, wherein the medium of the hydrating step (a) contains less than 5% by weight of 2-hydroxy-4-methylthiobutyric acid.
18. A process according to claim [1] 15, wherein the medium of the hydrating step (a) contains less than 2% by weight of 2-hydroxy-4-methylthiobutyric acid.
19. A process according to claim [1] 15, wherein the medium of the hydrating step (a) contains more than 95% by weight of 2-hydroxy-4-methylthiobutyramide.
20. A process according to claim [1] 15, wherein the medium of the hydrating step (a) contains more than 98% by weight of 2-hydroxy-4-methylthiobutyramide.
21. A process according to claim [1] 15, wherein the molar quantity of water to 2-hydroxy-4-methylthiobutyronitrile is between 1 and 2.5.
22. A process according to claim [1] 15, wherein the hydrating step (a) is carried out at a temperature ranging between 0 to 50°C.
23. A process according to claim [1] 15, wherein the hydrating step (a) is carried out at a pressure ranging between 0.01 and 1.0 bar.
24. A process according to claim [1] 15, wherein during the hydrolyzing step (b) a sufficient quantity of water is added in order to maintain the reaction mass in a homogeneous form.
26. A process according to claim [1] 15, wherein the hydrolyzing step (b) is carried out at temperature ranging between 90 and 130°C.
27. A process according to claim [1] 15, wherein the hydrolyzing step (b) is carried out at pressure ranging between 0.5 and 5 bar.

FINNEGAN
ENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com